



**MAYOR & COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015 ~ 6:00 PM RIVERDALE, GEORGIA
MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

ROLL CALL- CITY CLERK

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	Present
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1	ABSENT
An'cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2	Present
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3 Mayor Pro-Tem	Present
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4 Parliamentarian	Present

RULES OF CONDUCT:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Agenda approved by consensus.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager prepared and presented by E. Scott Wood. - Written report was provided to the Executive Board in advance)

Council Member Davis inquired if we could still have Holiday/ Christmas lights on Highway 85. Mr. Wood stated he would be happy to accommodate that request.

Council Member Wallace inquired about Police Body Cameras. She asked about the city's policy of storing the video. Chief Spivey indicated we would store the video data in-house.

Council Member Ruffin did not have any questions.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:

City Attorney report prepared and presented by L'Erin F. Barnes to include Mayor Dixon will sign the SPLOST agreement. Mayor Joy Day is the CCMA President this year. Attorney Barnes provided update on the IGA with Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) regarding advertising.

Mayor Dixon added she attended the MARTA meeting last week. She indicated there was discussion on the MARTA monorail. MARTA representatives did tour our city, and would like to use the Riverdale Town Center Parking Deck for "Park & Ride".

Council Member Wallace requested more information about the MARTA meetings. She asked if Council Members are allowed to attend.

Mr. Wood indicated these initial meetings are simply preliminary meetings with staff. He explained that Ms. Moore is gathering information at this point, to present to Mayor and Council.

Council Member Wallace understood and thanked Mr. Wood

Councilmember Ruffin inquired about the Monorail. He indicated initially they wanted to use the existing tracks with Southern Railway.

Mayor Dixon stated MARTA's desire to use the Southern Railway is on hold at this time, due to cost. She indicated they are working on an amicable agreement with Southern Railway.

UPDATE ON 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) APPLICATION, CAMILLA MOORE, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ZONING.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is one of the longest-running programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to fund local community development activities. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Proposed CDBG projects must be consistent with broad national priorities for CDBG: activities that benefit low- and moderate-income people, the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or other community development activities to address an urgent threat to health or safety. CDBG funds may be used for community development activities (such as real estate acquisition, relocation, demolition, rehabilitation of housing and commercial buildings), construction of public facilities and improvements (such as water, sewer, and other utilities, street paving, and sidewalks), construction and maintenance of neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings, public services, and economic development and job creation/retention activities. CDBG funds can also be used for preservation and restoration of historic properties in low-income neighborhoods.

Clayton County Government has been determined by HUD to be an Urban Entitlement Community in which local municipalities in Clayton must submit annual requests for annual or multi-year funding. In 2013, the Governing Body for the City of Riverdale voted to invest current and future CDBG funds received for years 2014-2018 for the expansion of Phase I and Phase II of its' Regional Park. Park improvements included the following:

Phase I

- Skate board park
- T-Ball field

Phase II

- Conversion of Detention Pond to a "Passive Park"
- Pavilions with grills
- Walking trails
- Statues and benches
- Low impact gaming activities (removable)
- Parking

The Application deadline for funding for 2015 is due January 30, 2015. Consistent with the intent of the Governing Body's desire, the current application seeks funding for the completion of items designated as a part of Phase I of the Park. Funding for Phase II Expansion in the amount of \$2,200,000 has been allocated for its development as a part of the 2015 SPLOST for the City of Riverdale.

Because of the layout of the existing park in relation to its expansion in Phase II, the construction of a T-Ball field will require the relocation of existing playground equipment to the “passive” areas near the pavilions in Phase II. Thus, until Phase II is completed, Staff recommends that the construction of the field be delayed and completed in conjunction with Phase II.

The skateboard park is the only remaining item requirement funding. Between 2012 and 2014, the City of Riverdale has experienced an increase in the number of school age children skateboarding in neighboring retail shops, city streets, and city properties. Safety has become a primary concern as children as young as 6 have been required to move off private property and city streets as a means to keep them from being hit by nearby vehicles. Therefore, a need to accommodate such use has arisen.

Staff has obtained possible costs and examples of possible layouts (Exhibits A&B). The approximate range is from \$250,000 upwards. Staff recommends that the **City submit a request for funding in the amount of \$390,000 in CDBG funds**, which allows the construction of one of the smaller parks. Staff has met with Clayton County Department of Planning Staff in regards to funding expectations. The County currently receives only 2M in annual funding. The City has not been awarded any funds since 2010 as a part of the completion of the Town Center (Attachment A). Clayton’s Planning Department Staff have agreed to view the proposed site for consideration in February of 2015.

Should Grant funding be awarded, anticipated construction should begin within five months of the award.

Staff recommends submission of an application for funding in the amount stated above with adoption of a Resolution for submission on January 26, 2015, Agenda to meet the January 30, 2015 submission deadline.

Failure to apply for Grant Funding may result in the City expending City funds for completion of park improvements.

Staff does anticipate a possible increase in insurance rates for coverage of the proposed use. The exact amount to be determined prior to the development of plans and construction start up.

Ms. Moore further emphasized the need for skateboard Park and mentioned several calls placed from merchants in Walmart Plaza and Kroger Plaza, regarding young people skateboarding in the parking lot.

Mayor Dixon called for questions from the Board.

Mayor Dixon added that we should add “skate at your own risk” signage at the park. She made reference to a park she noticed in a different area in Metro Atlanta that had signs posted.

L’Erin Barnes stated we should post these type of signs. However, if the Park is on City Property, which it will be, the City will be held liable, provided negligence is found. We would cover the proposed Skateboard Park as any other park the city owns and operates.

Council Member Wallace inquired if we could use the Skate Board Park for tournaments to generate additional revenue.

Attorney Barnes indicated the proposed park is very sizeable. We would need to contact various tournament organizations to access their specific needs.

Council Member Ruffin inquired about the location, regarding the proximity to cemetery. He inquired about parking options as well.

Ms. Moore confirmed the location, and provided an outline of Phase II, for additional parking options. Mr. Ruffin was satisfied.

Mayor Dixon acknowledged we have several kids skateboarding on the Riverdale Town Center plaza, she agreed there is a need for a skateboard park in the community.

DISCUSSION ON QUALIFYING FEES AND INTERGOVERNMENT AGREEMENT OPTIONS WITH CLAYTON COUNTY FOR GENERAL ELECTION SERVICES, SHERRY D. HENDERSON.

City of Riverdale, Georgia shall hold the 2015 Municipal General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 7am-7pm. A Municipality shall fix and publish a qualifying fee for each office to be filled in upcoming election. The Qualifying fee shall be (3) three percent of the total gross salary of the office paid in the preceding calendar year including all supplements.

The Last Day to for the governing authority of any county or municipality to fix and publish 2015 qualifying fees for each local office to be filled in the upcoming election is February 2, 2015. (February 1, 2015 falls on a Sunday) O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a).

The Clerk's Office reached out to Annie Bright, Elections Director for the Clayton County Board of Elections, for information regarding Intergovernmental Agreement for provision of Election Services between Clayton County and City of Riverdale, GA.

Clayton County Board of Elections has jurisdiction over the conduct of elections and registration of electors in the County. The Clerk's Office is confident this will be an amicable and beneficial arrangement for both parties, as we serve the needs of the citizens of Riverdale, with enhanced efficiency, transparency, and affordability.

O.C.G.A § 21-2-45 (c) authorizes the Governing Authority of any municipality to contract with the county within which that municipality wholly or partially lies to conduct any or all elections.

If it pleases the Board and is eventually adopted, the Clerk's Office desires the City to contract with the County to conduct municipal elections for the citizens of the City of Riverdale pursuant to the applicable laws of the State of Georgia.

Ms. Bright has offered (2) two sample Intergovernmental Agreements for the City of Riverdale Governing Authority and Legal Counsel to review. Ms. Bright has indicated Clayton County is willing to honor either of the (2) agreements with the City of Riverdale.

It was discussed the possibility of moving the Polling Location from 6690 Church Street to 7200 Church Street. If needed ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) provisions can be made to the building to allow a more fluid flow for voters. It was recently learned the city can apply for Grant money under the "Help Americans Vote Act", to help cover any expenditures. It was also discussed simply making the glass door closest to the Handicap accessible parking area available for voters who will need to gain access into 7200 Church Street.

Mayor Dixon called for questions from the Board.

Council Member Ruffin agreed the Election should take place at 7200 Church Street, and he's in support of the IGA with the County for Election Services.

Mr. Davis was in support as well.

Mr. Wood stated on Election Day, we can post someone at the door nearest handicap accessible parking to make more users friendly. He also mentioned the need to keep in mind, the change the polling location we will need to secure preclearance approval from the Department of Justice. However, he's confident it will not be a problem.

L'Erin Barnes indicated she has reviewed both IGA and she does not have an issue with either of the two. They will simply need to be revised and formatted for City of Riverdale.

Council Member Wallace mentioned that although other County's provides Election Services for their municipalities, Clayton County has not for any of its municipalities. Ms. Wallace stated if it was her election year, she would be more comfortable with the elections beheld in-house. However, she would go with the consensus of the Board.

L'Erin Barnes stated the city would still have some responsibilities with the Election, if with the County IGA, including notice in Legal organ, approval from Department of Justice etc. The City will still be part of the process. Elections are a highly guarded process, so if it pleases the Boards and if there is any hesitation regarding the process, she recommends the Board moves forward with IGA.

OVERVIEW OF STREET SWEEPERS OF AMERICA, BENNIE ROSE, DIRECTOR OF GENERAL SERVICES.

The City of Riverdale would like to renew its service contract with Street Sweepers of America. Currently there is a build-up of grass clippings, pine needles, leaves, and trash in the storm gutters of the city streets with only manual (shoveling) to remove. This quote of \$22,080.00 is \$1,3720.00 less than last year due to City storm gutters being maintained.

Mayor Dixon called for questions from the Board. There were none.

OVERVIEW OF ITEMS FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

Inter government Agreement with Clayton County Board of Elections. L'Erin Barnes will prepare IGA for Mayor and Council review.

RECESS INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL MATTER AS PROVIDED IN THE GEORGIA CODE SECTION 50-14-21 (1) AND 50-14-3(b)(1)(A)

The Governing Body recessed in an Executive Session to discuss a personnel and legal matter. The time was 6:39PM.

RECONVENE INTO WORK SESSION: Council Member Davis moved to reconvene into Work Session; second offered by Council Member Wallace, with vote of 3/0 the meeting reconvened into Work Session. The time was 7:07PM.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Mayor & Council, Council Member Wallace motioned to adjourn. Council Member Davis offered the second. The time was 7:08PM.

Minutes Approved By: _____
Dr. Evelyn Wynn Dixon, Mayor

Attested By: _____
Sherry D. Henderson, Office of the City Clerk